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narrative of Cortez as volume 4, which volume he himself has prepared for the press. The printers have done their part in giving us a neat and attractive page with type that can be easily read.

Although we have recent editions of the Cortez narrative in English, we are told that seventy years have passed since the appearance of a German edition. Dr. Schultze has done his work with great care. His extensive critical notes make this issue one of great value. He who reads the Cortez story as it here appears will also want to read the footnotes.

Cortez, as is known, did not always tell the full truth concerning his enterprises, as for instance he omits an account of the massacre at Cholula, as he also does a reference to the execution of the ruler Guatemotzin on the capture of the capital of the Aztecs. Omissions in the story the editor of this volume has undertaken to supply from contemporaneous accounts. Considering the purpose for which this volume was prepared it is a commendable achievement. E. L. S.

**Die Reisen des Venezianers Marco Polo, im 13. Jahrhundert.**

**Bearbeitet und herausgegeben von Dr. Hans Lemke.** Mit einem  
Bilde Marco Polos. Im Gutenberg-Verlag (Bibliotheken Wertzoller Memoiren,  
Vol. I edited by Dr. Ernst Schultze), Hamburg, 1908. M. 6.

This series of Memoirs, the editor expressly asserts, is intended more for the educated laity than for the historical specialists who will always wish to consult original documents.

He lays claim to an original plan in that he proposes to include in the series the most valuable memoirs of all times and of all peoples, in other words to select only those which have more than a temporal and a local interest. The issue of this series seems to be another response to the interest which students and the general reading public are increasingly manifesting in history as told by contemporaries.

Marco Polo's Book of the Kingdoms and Marvels of the East appears here in German dress. It is not a little surprising that so long a time has intervened since the appearance of the last German edition of this great travel narrative. In a sense one may therefore speak of it as timely.

Well edited as this volume appears to be, with an explanatory introduction and with copious notes, it does not take rank with that most scholarly English edition by Yule with Cordier's additional and up-to-date notes. This particular issue of the Polo Narrative is especially for German readers and cannot fail of favorable reception. There is a charm and lively interest which the story of the Polo travels will never lose. They were pioneers among the modern European explorers of central and eastern Asia, of what we have come to call the Far East. Of the governments, of the manners and customs of the people, of the riches of the distant Orient, they brought the first reliable information to the west. This cheap but well-printed edition will find readers. E. L. S.

**New Italy, Her People and Their Story. A Popular History of  
the Development and Progress of Italy from the Time of  
Theodoric the Great to That of Victor Emanuel III. By  
Augusta Hale Gifford.** ix and 332 pp., Illustrations and Maps. Lothrop,  
Lee & Shepard Co., Boston, 1909. \$1.20.

He who takes up this little volume expecting to get therefrom anything like satisfactory glimpses of the Italian people from that early day named on the title

page to the present will be disappointed. It is little more than a pleasing general account of the history of the peninsula. In the preface it is admitted that the effort has been "to present distinguished Italian statesmen and scholars by their most distinguished deeds—leaving the reader to elaborate their lives from biographies and histories which take up topics in detail."

Apparently, somewhat overwhelmed by details when writing of recent and present day Italy in the closing chapters, the easy flowing style of the earlier pages is replaced by short, oft-times disconnected paragraphs and sentences.

It is flattering to the Americans to read that "on account of the great number of Americans who visit the country each year" we have one of the two main reasons why "Italy is one of the most discussed subjects of the day."

Doubtless the great majority of those who read this book, which admittedly has much to commend it, will not be overcritical of its accuracy or inaccuracy of statement. Its errors of statement are not particularly obtrusive, yet one is rather startled by an apparent allusion to a Gothic conquest of the entire continent when Theodosius "established communication through secretaries with all Gothic rulers throughout Europe." It is not quite correct to say that "Gregory the Great commenced the conversion of the Britons to Christianity," and it is the very common student error to speak of "Louis the Pious, Charlemagne's son, who succeeded him by the Treaty of Verdun in 843."

In the last three of the nineteen chapters we have a very brief consideration of improvements and modern institutions, military expansion and literature, with a word concerning the present Royal Household.

E. L. S.

**On the Coromandel Coast.** By F. E. Penny. vi and 358 pp. and Index.

Smith, Elder & Co., London, 1909. 10s. 6d.

The Coromandel Coast is a name introduced by the Portuguese a century before the English established their trading centers in India. It is applied to the southeastern coast of which Madras is the center. Mrs. Penny lived for years in that region and this is the latest of her ten books on various phases of the peninsula. The volume consists largely of interesting bits of history and anecdote relating to old and new times along this eastern coast. Here is a quaint bit of the history:

There was a village of Muckwas, peaceful fisher folk; and on the white sands in front of the hamlet two servants of the British East India Co. built a fort, in 1640, which they named Fort St. George. The company did not share the faith of its agents that this place would develop into a good trading point and the names of the guilty men and their offence are thus recorded in the "Black Book":

Frauncis Day. Blamed to be the first projector of the Forte of St. George. The worke begunne by Frauncis Day and paid for out of the Company's cash.

Andrew Cogan. To answeare the building of the forte St. George, the echarge whereof hath cost from ye first of March, 1639, to ye thirtieth of June, 1643, pagodas new 9250.

But the agents had made no mistake, and the above records now seem very amusing in view of the fact that the great city of Madras is spread around the site of the old fort.

This is a good example of the curious and interesting information with which the book abounds. It is largely a story of the olden and modern times, told in anecdotal fashion and dealing, in part, with the natives but more with Europeans, from the traders to the pioneer and later missionaries. It is a hitherto almost unnoted chapter in history depicting, in lifelike colours, the life and struggles of the foreign pioneers in the Eastern Empire.